
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2021 Senate Bill 325

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

2021 SENATE BILL 325

2021 Senate Bill 325 directs the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to establish and administer a program to promote the export of Wisconsin agricultural and agribusiness projects. Under the bill, WEDC and the Center for International Agribusiness Marketing within the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) must cooperate to achieve specified export objectives by June 30, 2026. After this date, the Legislative Audit Bureau is required to conduct an audit of the WEDC export program and file a copy of the audit report with various entities by December 31, 2026.

The bill requires WEDC to expend \$5,000,000 under the export program and indicates amounts that must be spent on specific export objectives. WEDC must also request the Joint Committee on Finance for funding for the program, no later than the 30th day after the publication of the 2021 biennial budget act. WEDC must also hire at least one full-time employee to administer the program.

No later than December 31, 2021, WEDC and DATCP must jointly submit a plan to the Legislature describing how the corporation and the department will achieve the bill's export objectives. This plan must include a plan to grant at least 15 percent of the funds to be expended under the program by no later than December 31, 2022. By June 30, 2024, WEDC and DATCP must jointly submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature that describes the progress made towards achieving the bill's export objectives.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 directs DATCP's Center for International Agribusiness Marketing to establish and administer the bill's export program, rather than directing WEDC to do so. In turn, provisions of the bill applicable to WEDC are instead made applicable to DATCP under the amendment.¹ The amendment maintains the requirement that WEDC and DATCP cooperate to achieve the specified export objectives.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Ballweg offered Senate Amendment 1 on March 21, 2021. On March 26, 2021, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Tourism recommended adoption of the amendment, and passage of the bill as amended, on votes of Ayes, 9; Noes, 0.

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¹ Language applicable to WEDC under the bill is largely identical to the language applicable to DATCP under the amendment. However, while the bill directs WEDC to hire at least one full-time employee to administer the exports program, the amendment directs DATCP to reallocate one full-time equivalent position to administer the program.